The claim that there are thousands of "toxic components" of environmental tobacco smoke is totally unsupported and insupportable. Although chemical analyses have reported that a large number of substances can be identified in mainstream tobacco smoke, this is irrelevant to environmental tobacco smoke, which is an extremely dilute and aged mixture primarily of sidestream smoke from the burning end of the cigarette.

Only about 300 sidestream smoke constituents have been identified. Even sources with strong anti-tobacco biases, such as the United States Surgeon General and the United States National Academy of Sciences, note that only about 50 of these have been claimed to have potential biological relevance. Moreover, data on sidestream smoke cannot be applied to environmental tobacco smoke, which differs greatly in both level of dilution and in physical and chemical composition. A few sidestream smoke constituents with reported biological activity have also been reported in minute levels in ambient air as environmental tobacco smoke. At the levels detected in environmental tobacco smoke, none of these constituents has been demonstrated to be a cause of disease.



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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/sgfk0000